

House Safety

Fire safety checklist

- Install smoke alarms in bedrooms and hallways, and on each level of your house.
- Smoke alarms double your chance of survival in a home fire!
- Check smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least twice a year.
- Keep emergency numbers by the phone and teach your children and babysitters how to use them.
- Have family fire drills (using the alarm) to prepare the family for a real emergency.
- Inform family members to get out of the house immediately if there is a fire and call 911 from a neighbor's house.
- The number one rule in case of fire is get everyone out of the house and do not go back inside!
- Teach your children have two methods of exit from your house and make sure they know how to use them.
- Remove debris and furniture from all exit routes.
- Show your family how to feel all doors before exiting a room.
- If the door is hot, move out of the way and use an alternate exit.
- In the event of a home fire, have an outdoor location where family members can meet.
- Teach your children the concept of "stop, drop and roll". (When clothes are on fire, stop, drop and roll back and forth, shielding face from fire with hands.)
- In case of fire, teach your family how to get low to the ground and stay low, where air contains less smoke and is cooler.
- Always stay nearby when you are cooking food.
- Careless cooking is one of the number one causes of house fires.
- Mount a fire extinguisher near your stove. Ten feet away is ideal.
- Teach your children that playing with matches is dangerous.
- One-quarter of all fire deaths occur because of a fire started by a child.
- Periodically check and replace all worn electrical cords.
- Remove any and all electrical cords from underneath rugs.
- Always store flammable liquids away from the house and away from heat sources.
- Always start lawn equipment at least 10 feet away from the place where it was refueled.
- Have the fireplace and chimney checked annually to prevent a fire hazard.
- Use dried wood in the fireplace; Damp wood causes creosote to build up, which can result in a chimney fire.
- Never use liquid fuel in a fireplace or wood stove.
- Always shut off space heaters before leaving the house; never use extension cords with heaters and make certain that the heaters are three feet away from anything that might burn.
- If you have a child who repeatedly plays with fire, call your fire department. We can help!

Electrical safety checklist

- Always read your electrical appliance manuals for safety guidelines.
- Always use the correct wattage bulbs for lights.
- Always check size of fuses for the circuits.
- Replace or have the manufacturer fix any electrical appliance that blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives a shock.
- Have an electrician check any outlets or switches that are warm to the touch.
- Keep electrical cords away from water sources, such as the sink.
- Unplug all electrical devices that are near a water source.
- Install a ground fault circuit interrupter; It may reduce electrocution deaths by one

half, according to recent studies.

- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use.
- Have the manufacturer fix any electrical kitchen appliances that spark or shock.
- Cover all accessible electrical outlets within a toddler's reach.

Monitor the condition of cords and replace when deteriorated.